

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T TEHRAN 3810

EXDIS

PASS SECDEF AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IR
SUBJ: SHAH DISCUSSES REGIONAL AFFAIRS

REF: CHIEF, ARMISH/MAAG 230731Z APR 75 (NOTAL)

1. IN AUDIENCE APRIL 21 WITH MAAG CHIEF, MG BRETT, SHAH
DISCUSSED SEVERAL RATHER SENSITIVE POLITICAL SUBJECTS
WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF STATUS OF IIAF AVIATION
PROGRAM, SHAH WENT INTO RATHER LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF
IRANIAN REQUIREMENT FOR HELICOPTERS BOTH IN MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN SECTORS. SHAH SAID IRAN WAS NOT IN NEAR
TERM INTERESTED IN PRODUCING FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, BUT HE
BELIEVED GOI HAD TO PRODUCE HELICOPTERS. SHAH EMPHASIZED
NEED TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN PROCUREMENT OF THIS CRITICAL
ITEM. ALTHOUGH, HE ADDED, IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT
USG WOULD EVER SHUT OFF SPARES AND/OR END ITEMS, ONE MUST
BE
PREPARED FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. SHAH SAID HE HOPED TO
DETERMINE SHORTLY WHICH COMPANY/COUNTRY PROPOSAL IRAN WOULD
ACCEPT FOR HELICOPTER COPRODUCTION. GOI MUST PRESS AHEAD

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ON THIS PROJECT. HE GAVE NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER AS TO

WHAT HIS DECISION WILL BE. (NOTE: DECISION IS EXPECTED BY MID-JULY.) SHAH ADDED THERE WAS ALSO A REGIONAL REQUIREMENT AND IRAN COULD FEATURE WITHIN THIS REGION BY PROVIDING HELICOPTERS AS WELL AS SPARES AND DEPOT MAINTENANCE.

3. MENTIONING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, SHAH SAID PERHAPS HE COULD EVEN ASSIST SAUDIS IN THEIR HELICOPTER EFFORT AS THEY CERTAINLY NEEDED THEM. HE SAID, IN EFFECT, NOW THAT THE OLD KING IS DEAD AND WE ARE ALL SORRY FOR HIS UNTIMELY AND SAD DEATH, WE CAN DO BUSINESS WITH THEM EVEN THOUGH THE PRESENT KING IS SURROUNDED BY OVER 200 PRINCES ALL OF WHOM ARE CURRYING HIS FAVOR. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, CROWN PRINCE FAHD IS A CLEVER FELLOW AND ONE THAT WE CAN DO BUSINESS WITH AS WELL AS OTHERS THAT ARE CLOSE TO KING KHALED. (IMPRESION WAS THAT SHAH LOOKS ON VISIT IN AN OPTIMISTIC AND OPEN MINDED MANNER.)

4. IN DISCUSSION OF NECESSITY FOR COMBINED ARMS AND JOINT EXERCISES THE SHAH COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON IRANIAN USE OF ARTILLERY ON IRAQI BORDER. HE SAID IRAQIS HAD ACTUALLY SAID IRANIAN ARTILLERY WAS DEVASTATING IN ITS EFFECT. BUT, HE ADDED, THIS WAS ONLY AN ISOLATED CASE AND THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT FULL SPECTRUM OF ARMS MUST BE BROUGHT TO BEAR IN MODERN WARFARE. NO LONGER CAN ONE DEPEND UPON A WAR LASTING A LONG TIME. OUTCOME WILL CERTAINLY BE DETERMINED IN A FEW DAYS OR WEEKS. THEREFORE, IT IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO HIT HARD WITH A COMBINATION OF EVERYTHING ONE HAS IN HIS ARSENAL. HE WENT ON TO STATE THAT HE FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO BRING IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT WITH KURDS TO AN END. KURDS HAD LOST THEIR WILL TO FIGHT AND ONLY WAY THEY COULD BE BOLSTERED WOULD BE BY ADDITIONAL ARTILLERY AND INVOLVEMENT WITHIN IRAQ OF IRANIAN FORCES. FIRST IT WOULD BE ARTILLERY, THEN ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY TO PROTECT ARTILLERY, THEN INFANTRY TO PROTECT ARTILLERY AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY, THEN AIR TO PROTECT INFANTRY AND THEN MORE INFANTRY. THERE COULD BE NO WAY TO KEEP INVOLVEMENT LOW KEY AND IT WOULD RESULT IN OPEN AND ACKNOWLEDGED WARFARE. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH MANY DO NOT UNDERSTAND, IT WAS ESSENTIAL IN PRECLUDING OPEN WARFARE BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ TO BRING THIS SITUATION TO A HALT.

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5. THE SHAH COMMENTED THAT MANY AMERICANS ASK HIM WHY IRAN IS EXPANDING AND MODERNIZING ITS MILITARY FORCES. HE SAID THAT RECENT EVENTS AS WELL AS PAST EVENTS HAVE POSITIVELY PROVEN A COUNTRY MUST BE ABLE TO STAND ON ITS OWN FEET. A COUNTRY CANNOT EXPECT OTHER NATIONS TO COME TO ITS AID OR DO ITS FIGHTING, IF THE COUNTRY DOES NOT HAVE WILL AND CAPABILITY TO FIGHT. IRANIANS CANNOT EXPECT ANY HELP FROM

ANYONE IF THEY ARE NOT IN A POSITION, THROUGH WILL AND CAPABILITY, TO HELP THEMSELVES.

6. SHAH SAID HE WAS STILL VERY CONCERNED ABOUT AFGHANISTAN AND VERY EVIDENT RUSSIAN INFLUENCE AND PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY. MOREOVER HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE VIABILITY OF PAKISTAN, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE BALUCH AND OTHER TRIBAL MOTIVES AND CAPABILITIES. AS HE HAS SAID IN THE PAST, THE SHAH EMPHASIZED THAT RUSSIANS HAVE ALWAYS WANTED A PORT ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND WILL IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT TAKE IT BY ENCROACHMENTS OVER LAND. DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RUSSIANS WILL ATTEMPT TO GET A PORT ON THE INDIAN OCEAN BY CROSSING AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. THE INFERENCE WAS THAT THE USSR WOULD USE QTE CLIENT STATE UNQTE FORCES, IF POSSIBLE, BUT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT COMBINATION OF BOTH RUSSIAN AND QTE CLIENT STATE UNQTE FORCES WOULD BE EMPLOYED.
MIKLOS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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